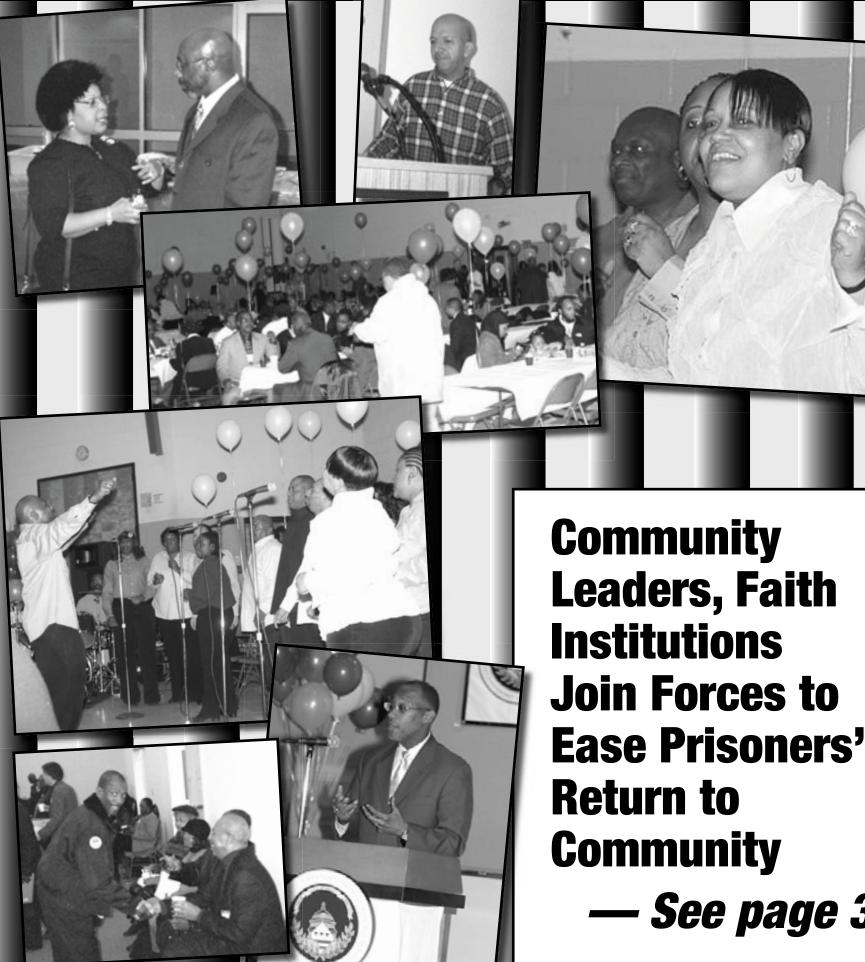
NEWS DIMENSIONS





See page 3

FROM THE EDITOR:

BY VALENCIA MOHAMMED

City Council hearings on the rise of youth homicides in DC

ou should have been there. The D.C. police chief with all his brass tagging behind him sat down, reading off some stats about the numbers of youth killed in the nation's capital by age, race, and gender. Yada, yada, yada. He kept referring to the numbers like he was talking about little animals. No, it was more like the slave auction. The dog and pony show was in full effect. The blame for youth murders seemed as if it were placed on the parents and school system. The failure for the police department to serve, protect and solve murders was not an issue.

Do you know that the chief said "he" was afraid that if District residents were given the right to bear arms things would be worse? I don't think so because witnesses would carry guns to protect themselves from their would-be killers? As long as law abiding citizens are left defenseless against murderers, homicides will escalate. We are like sitting targets and no one sees a thing.

The teen homicides are no different from the adult homicides. In most cases, they were probably killed by adults. Those adults probably killed other adults too and the police know this too! So I am not down for the bull crap. The Black community has become a self-cleaning oven. It rids itself of good people and bad people. It's kill or be killed or kill because you think that someone might get away with killing you. Regardless, the police will get paid to write it down. Recording crime in the Black community is also a great hobby for cops who don't want to work.

Next the circus acts continued with representatives from agency after agency, initiative after initiative, grant after grant and paid community organizations defending their own existence. And just like the circus costumes, they were dressed in the best business attire for the photo ops. I kept thinking to myself, if this group is doing so much, why have things gotten out-of-control?

One of the council members had the audacity to mention legislation in another jurisdiction that jailed a man for 10 years for "one" bullet! Harsher penalties, give me a break. A Black and White man in Virginia can have as many bullets as they want and we want to put away a man for 10 years for one bullet! That's self genocide and we elected these fools! Don't let the council pass this proposal.

My two grandsons, Hasan and Rasheed Jenkins spoke



to put a human element to the state of affairs. "The children in my class said to tell you stop the war. Stop the violence. We don't want men asking us for money for cigarettes," said Hasan. "I was five when my first uncle died, Said. Now I am 10 and my favorite uncle, Imtiaz, died. I miss them," he said sadly. In January, Hasan screamed to the top of his lungs at school crying out for his uncles.

The victims that these government groups spoke about so callously are real human beings. They had lives. They have family members that grieve them. Sometimes young family members never get over the grief and suffer in school. They might become low achievers, disruptive, suicidal, juvenile delinquents, easy prey for hustlers, or victims of homicide themselves. Somehow we must rely on ourselves to stop the cycle of violence and stop looking for outsiders to do it for us.

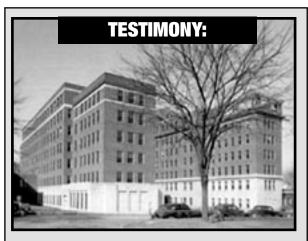
The superintendent of schools was a "no show." What could he say anyway, he didn't know much? He is still traveling around the city asking students, parents, teachers, principals for ideas. Ain't nothing new, man. For the last six months he has earned his salary by listening. Easy job wouldn't you say? Ralph Neal, assistant superintendent, came with about five other deputies, ready for a barrage of questions. If there is one thing I know about educators, they are very crafty at "not" answering a questions directly.

Most of the testimonies prior to that of the school systems, referenced truancy, lack of in-school suspension programs and dropping out of school as factors leading to short and long term incarceration of youth and eventually death!!

Did those agencies forget where they got the information from about truancies in the first place? The school system has mastered documenting absenteeism. The school system testified how it complied with the law reporting truancies and the court system did not take the actions the council put in place.

Now let's see, everytime when the school system had in-school suspension programs in place, the mayor had

YOUTH HOMICIDES Continues on page 4



What's Next for D.C. General?

REMARKS OF ROBERT GREEN III
President, Capital Area Minority Contractors and
Business Association CAMCBA Before the District of
Columbia Committee on Health Public Roundtable:
Progress of the District and Howard University in
Developing the National Capital Medical Center
February 17, 2005

he Capital Area Minority Contractors and Business Association (CAMCBA) is an independent, non-affiliated organization dedicated to fulfilling the unique advocacy and educational needs of Washington area minority contractors and developers. CAMCBA's membership base includes urban developers, equity partners, architects, general contractors, subcontractors, construction managers, manufacturers, suppliers, local minority contractor associations, attorneys, accountants, and other professionals.

The new hospital project represents an opportunity for the city to fill the vital healthcare gaps created by the closure of DC General Hospital. This project also represents an opportunity for the city to remedy an abysmal record of inclusion of minority contractors and developers. Despite the building boom sweeping this city, minority contractors and developers have not benefited. Responsibility for this embarrassing failure falls directly on the city's leadership.

As CAMCBA has stated repeatedly, the city's minority business programming is totally ineffective. These calls have continued to fall on deaf ears. Here we are again with another signature project and again no work has been done to ensure ample participation of minority businesses.

The Local, Small, and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (LSDBE) Program is a grossly insufficient vehicle to ensure minority participation. As a result of a very weak minority business

DC GENERAL Continues on page 5

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TESTIMONY:

BY PAUL A. QUANDER, JR.
DIRECTOR, COURT SERVICES AND OF-FENDER SUPERVISION AGENCY FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Chairman Davis and Members of the Committee:

hank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I want to begin by commending the committee for scheduling a reentry hearing during Reentry Week. 2005 marks the fourth consecutive year that the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA) has collaborated with faith institutions in the District of Columbia, as well as the District government, to present a full week of events highlighting the needs of returning offenders. We also appeal to local faith institutions to dedicate a service to the issue of reentry. I attended reentry services at two churches last Sunday, and our week will close out with a Muslim prayer service at Howard University on Friday.

Tomorrow night, our third annual Citywide Reentry Assembly will be held at St. Luke Center on East Capitol Street. We will gather to thank the many volunteers who mentor offenders, to recognize the lead institutions in our Faith/Community Partnership, and to hear directly from offenders who are receiving faith-based support. I invite all of you to join us for an inspirational evening.

All of us here know the statistics of reentry. The District of Columbia is no different from any other city, in that each year more than two thousand prisoners return home to our neighborhoods. For the most part, they are unskilled and undereducated, with long histories of substance abuse and arrest, but short histories of gainful employment and stability. They are older than you might realize, with an average age of 35. For their entire adult lives, they have cycled in and out of prison. It is the most stable environment many of them have ever known.

We also know that when we consider reentry, we have to think not just about the individual offender but about the small and large systems they impact. Families, the neighborhoods, the broader community, our city and in fact the entire metropolitan area are affected, positively or negatively, by the actions of returning offenders.

We at CSOSA view community supervision as both a public safety duty and a public service opportunity. Our mission is to enhance public safety through effective supervision. If we achieve that mission, we will reduce recidivism and in doing so reduce the number of D.C. residents and visitors who are victimized. But there is another side to



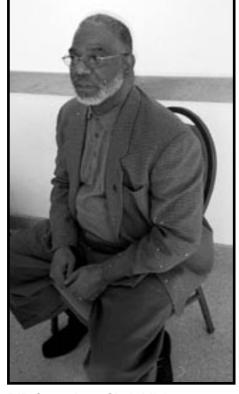
Previously Incarcerated People (PIP) Forum committee (Left to right): (Standing) Maurice Roberts, Clifton Johnson, Mark Abdul Wali Timberlake, P. Chase El, Rodney Mitchell, Archie Childs, Abubakr Muhammad Karim, (Seated) Tyrone Parker, Yvonne Cooper, Yango Sawyer, Ty Gray El, Wallace Sayyid Kirby, Amin Hassan Muslim, Darnell Bradford El

reducing recidivism. For every offender who does not commit a new crime, there is the possibility of a productive citizen who holds a job, parents a child, and contributes to his or her community. Effective community supervision is not just the prevention of wrong-doing, it is the encouragement of right-doing.

That is why in 2001 we reached out to the city's clergy and began our Faith/ Community Partnership. Our goal has been to connect returning offenders with institutions and individuals who can support them not only during their supervision, but also can serve as a resource and a haven long after the term of supervision has ended. Many offenders have never known a positive, accepting, non-criminal community. Volunteer mentors can introduce offenders to a different type of environment and a new circle of acquaintances.

Many offenders also don't know that churches run substance abuse support groups, men's support groups, family ministries, clothing banks, and other support programs. Within our Faith/ Community Partnership, three lead institutions identify and broker these services to maximize the support available to returning offenders and their families. Faith-based support does not replace CSOSA's treatment and education programs, but it supplements our capacity with aftercare and more oneon-one contact than the Community Supervision officer can provide. We currently have a network of 46 participating faith institutions and approximately 200 volunteer mentors. This is a significant resource for offenders and their families to draw upon.

In 2003 we recognized that we needed to begin the process of linking returning offenders with services well before they were released from prison. Using teleconferencing technology, we took the Faith/Community Partnership into the Rivers Correctional Institution, a Bureau of Prisons contract facility that houses over 1,000 D.C. code offenders. That outreach has developed into regular Community Resource Day videoconferences, at which representatives from the Faith/Community Partnership and a variety of District social service



PIP Committee Chair Minister Darnell Bradford El

agencies provide information to men nearing release.

Partnership with CSOSA has encouraged our lead faith institutions to expand the range of services they provide. The East of the River Clergy-Police-Community Partnership received a grant last year to implement the Department of Labor's Ready4Work initiative. East of the River is also converting a 14-unit apartment building into transitional housing for returning offenders. CSOSA also partnered with Rev. Anthony Motley to co-locate a Learning Lab and a community housing resource center at the Bellevue Center in far Southeast.

The issue of housing reminds us that no matter how committed we are to developing partnerships and leveraging existing resources, some of the problems of reentry require more than collaboration to solve. According to the District's Department of Housing and Community Development, a household income of \$40,000 per year, or roughly \$20 per hour, is necessary to rent a two-bedroom apartment at market rate. Almost half of District households report an income of less than

that. These are the households most likely to be impacted by reentry—and returning offenders compete directly with other workers in these households for a limited supply of viable jobs. About 25 percent of the release plans we investigate do not contain a stable housing placement. Alternative arrangements have to be made, such as temporary "Public Law" placement in halfway houses or, in some cases, referral to a city homeless shelter. We are working with non-profits within the District—such as Our Place DC, which provides services to women offenders, East of the River, and the Marshall Heights Community Development Organization—to raise awareness of the housing issue and develop strategies to increase funding for transitional housing. We also support efforts to bring the Delancey Street model of self-supporting transitional housing and entrepreneurship to the District of Columbia.

Finally, we know that offender housing raises public safety concerns. In 2004, we executed a memorandum of understanding with the D.C. Housing Authority to share information about offenders living in public housing, similar to our successful partnership with the Metropolitan Police Department. This type of collaborative policing reinforces accountability and makes it harder for offenders to fall "under the radar" of detection.

Viable housing is impossible without viable employment. Returning offenders face significant obstacles to getting and keeping jobs that pay enough to live; about half of the offenders under CSOSA's supervision are unemployed at any given time. Our Vocational Development Specialists work not just on improving the offender's skills but on encouraging employers to hire them. Increasing employers' willingness to hire and train ex-offenders is essential to successful reentry programming. To that end, we are collaborating with the District to implement Project Empowerment Plus, which combines life skills training with subsidized employment. As part of Reentry Week, I will attend a

YOUTH HOMICIDES Continued from page 2

a city deficit and the schools took a big hit. After the schools weeded out the mandated programs, the required programs, the council and mayor favorites, the board of education cut in-school suspension, and vocational training. Cut, cut, cut!!!

If I remember correctly, the police department is in charge of truancy. Just a few blocks from the youth division, you will see teenaged hookers prostituting on the streets in broad daylight during school time on Rhode Island and New York Avenues, N.E.

"I didn't "tell" you to do that. I strongly recommended it," they might say.

Many experts kept bringing up the Boston, Mass. Model to deter crime and reduce homicides. For two years while it was fully funded, there were no homicides in the entire city. But just like everything else, once something is working government officials sought to cut the budget and the programs became under funded and useless. The homicide rate soared once again.

Now there is another task force underway with the same group of people posturing themselves for solutions. Don't expect too much from the group. It's the same "bs" just a different way of presenting it, while the blood of our children and other loved ones continues to pour in the streets.

RE-ENTRY WEEK Continued from page 3

graduation ceremony for the life skills portion of the program.

For many offenders, nothing is a more accurate predictor of recidivism than relapse into drug use. We see time and again that drug use is the first link in a chain that drags the offender back to prison. For men and women with long-term, severe substance abuse problems, intensive intervention has to begin at the moment of release. We have developed and implemented an intensive program at our Assessment and Orientation Center that takes offenders directly after release and puts them through 30 days of assessment, counseling, fatherhood classes, and treatment groups to ensure that they are prepared for reentry—and for most, that means inpatient or outpatient drug treatment as well. Evaluation indicates that this program has a positive affect on recidivism; participants were as much as 75 percent less likely to be arrested. Over 1,300 offenders have completed this program since 1996.

Based on the proven success of the program, we are expanding the AOC into a Reentry and Sanctions Center that will provide this level of programming to over 1,200 high-risk offenders and defendants each year. We are currently renovating space for this program, and the first two units are scheduled to open in November of

I am proud of CSOSA's progress in putting a successful reentry program in place, and particularly of our collaboration with the city to develop the Citywide Reentry Strategy. The strategy takes a systemic look at reentry, focusing on the multiple areas of need and the multiple agencies that influence and implement solutions. The Reentry Strategy resulted from a three-year collaborative process and we are confident that it will inform the discussion of

reentry for many more years to come.

As Congress debates reentry issues, I hope we do not confine discussion of reentry to the criminal justice arena but broaden it to all related areas—drug policy, family policy, employment policy, and housing policy. I hope that we continue to link volunteerism with reentry and reach out to the faith community so that more returning offenders can experience first-hand their neighbors' compassion and commitment. We must also remain mindful of the need to restore healthy parents to the children devastated by incarcera-

As a lifelong resident of the District, like my parents before me, I have seen too clearly how a neighborhood is wounded when most of its young men are incarcerated. As Director of CSOSA, I am committed to putting as many healing tools in place as possible and encouraging our partners to do the same. Our discussion of reentry must always include the child, the victim, the grandmother, and the businessman as well as the offender. Community supervision is an essential aspect of reentry, but no matter how aggressively we supervise, we cannot achieve success on our own. Too many variables influence reentry for the outcome to rest solely on enforcement. According to the Urban Institute's analysis of reentry in Baltimore, family support, substance abuse treatment, and employment assistance are what returning offenders need most. Those essentials can only be provided through concerted, sustained collaborations in which all partners contribute to the restoration of individuals, families, and communities. That should be the true goal of all reentry initiatives.

I thank you again for the opportunity to participate in this hearing.





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D.C. Mayor Anthony Williams addresses the Previously Incarcerated People (PIP) Forum during the city's Reentry week activities.



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DC GENERAL Continued from page 2

program, minority businesses are in a state of crisis! Here we will undoubtedly find ourselves again hearing promises of minority business participation with no substantive protections in place to provide assurances that these promises are any more than the lip service we have heard prior to approval of previous big-ticket projects.

Before we were asked to support the Gallery Place Project, we were promised that there would be strong minority business participation. That promise was broken. When the mega convention center deal was touted as an economic boom to the city, minority contractors and developers were promised significant participation. Guess what? These promises were also broken. Not only were these promises broken, but the same people, including Allen Lew were reassigned to run the new stadium project. The first major contractor the stadium authority hired to renovate the RFK stadium is Turner Construction, a firm with a documented history of attempting to avoid the spirit and black letter of even the weak LSDBE law. In the words of the late Fannie Lou Hamer, "We are sick and tired of being sick and tired".

The city's current "minority business program" is called the Local, Small, and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Program (LSDBE). The program provides modest point preferences for local or small or disadvantaged businesses competing for low bid contracts. Of course, as the city has recently discovered, many of their contracts are not competitively put out for bid. Moreover, many development and general contracting deals are awarded based on subjective factors that negate any bid preferences, effectively eliminating any benefits of the LSDBE program.

The most gapping hole of the LS-DBE program is that eligibility for the program is absurdly broad. In fact, the mega firms Arnold Porter, Arent, Fox, Kitner, Plotkin & Kahn, and Hogan & Hartson are all certified LSDBE's according to the program website. Riggs Bank, Akridge Management, Tishman Construction, PN Hoffman, and Tompkin Builders a subsidiary Turner Construction (a \$7.8 billion corporation) are also LSDBEs. So you can see why we are less than excited about hearing about any LSDBE participation goals.



"If this city can get offers to build a \$300 million baseball stadium for free, then why can't it apply the same principles to a hospital?"

Considering the history and lingering effects of discrimination in this city, CAMCBA is particularly concerned with African American participation levels. We have asked the city to conduct an independent diversity audit to determine exactly how limited African American participation has been in this city's economic boom. The District does not even know how much business African American firms conduct with the District government. Virginia, Maryland, Baltimore, Charlotte, Chicago, and Philadelphia have all conducted reviews on their programs and found African American participation as low as 1%.

These governments have acknowledged the failure of their minority business programs and began work to reform them. They have developed solid programs that meet Constitutional scrutiny and deliver on promises of inclusion. It would seem that if minority business participation were a serious goal for this city's leadership, then the same process would be occurring here before the city would make another major financial commitment.

The city's commitment to minority businesses should be reflected in the award of development rights to the Reservation 13 parcel. The private sector has, in the absence of District government pressure, continued to rape and pillage district owned property without ample minority business participation. The District continues to open its candy jar to developers to come in to the city, get sweet heart tax incentives, and take their rich profits somewhere else. Despite this phenomenon, the District continues to create independent agencies (ie.- Anacostia Development Corporation, NCRC) with the power to continue to do more of the same. On this project, things should be different. A minority master developer should be over this project and empowered to hire minority contractors and developers to complete the work.

Without having been privy to the negotiations or final "agreement" on the new

hospital, we are only able to comment on news reports about the details of the project. It has been reported \$400 million cost for the new hospital will be funded by various revenue bonds. Our developers have begun looking at alternative means to finance the project. CAMCBA believes that the development rights to Reservation 13 should be tied to the building of the hospital. For once, the city should ensure that the development rights to its developable land be used in furtherance of the best interests of its citizenry. A significant portion of the \$400 million in revenue needed to build the hospital should be generated by the sale of development rights for Reservation 13.

If this city can get offers to build a \$300 million baseball stadium for free, then why can't it apply the same principles to a hospital. A consortium of our developers is working on a preliminary version of a plan to finance the construction of the hospital in exchange for the rights to develop the remainder of Reservation 13. We would urge the Council to not take any action to approve the new hospital project until this plan is available for your review.





Smokey's Soul In The Bowl Is A Hit

BY JUNIOUS RICARDO STANTON

egendary song writer/crooner, recording artist, producer, record company executive, William "Smokey" Robinson teamed up with his buddy Leon Isaac Kennedy and two other non show business partners to form SFGL Foods Inc. This fledgling company is the fastest growing food company owned by people of color in the nation. Smokey came to Philadelphia as part of a whirlwind national tour to promote the first two of what will be an expanded line of ready to cook frozen food entrees. The initial offerings of the company are: The Soul Is In The Bowl Seafood Gumbo and R and B Red Beans and Rice.

Appearing at the Bala Cynwyd ACME supermarket on City Line Avenue, Smokey and Leon Isaac Kennedy met adoring fans as Smokey signed boxes of the Gumbo and Red Beans and Rice. Smokey shared how the venture came about.

"We started a food company and the Gumbo is called Smokey Robinson's the Soul Is In The Bowl Seafood Gumbo and the red beans and rice is called R and B Red Beans and Rice. The idea for the project was brought to me by

Leon Isaac Kennedy who you know from films. He and I have been brothers forever. We always talked about doing something that had nothing to do with show business. About three years ago he came to me with this idea about starting a food company. We wanted to do a food that is not readily available in most supermarkets. So we decided to do gumbo because we both love gumbo and both our families have great gumbo recipes." Robinson and his partners also were health conscious and didn't want to create a product that contained harmful sodium, dyes and preservatives so they made their gumbo, beans and rice a frozen entree. "Gumbo especially but Red beans and Rice are an all day fixer. You don't go into the kitchen and say 'I'm going to whip me up some gumbo right quick.' It doesn't happen like that. Ours' is already cooked., it's already made and prepared. All the stuff that's in gumbo is in there. We have seafood and we have great portions and we have chicken sausage in there. We do not have any red meat in there. You take it home you can microwave it, you can heat it in the oven, you can take it out of the box it's in and put it in a pot and heat it up like that. In six or seven minutes you have a bowl of gumbo or red beans and rice. You just have to remember it's in the frozen foods



Smokey signed boxes of Gumbo and Red Beans and Rice as his fans waited patiently to buy out the stock baring pictures, albums and memorabilia for him to sign. He graciously obliged them all. The folks ate free samples of the food, took pictures, they got a chance to interact with a living legend and had a good time in the process.

section of the supermarket," explained Robinson.

While both Robinson and Kennedy have experienced great success in show business, they want to be role models and mentors for the younger generation to show them how to embrace entrepreneurship.

"When we start to make a profit part of the proceeds are going to be used to start seminars workshops and classes to show young kids they can be entrepreneurs. Most of them think they have to be sports figures or entertainers in order to make a great living for themselves. A lot of them probably have some great ideas but sports and entertainment seem to be the avenue

to make the most money because that's what they see. We want them to know that they can do other things."

Kennedy and Robinson spent two years working on the recipes perfecting them getting it just right. When they presented the idea to Albertsons a food distribution chain that owns ACME Markets. Albertsons taste tested it and test marketed it in Chicago, it sold out of the twenty stores they put it in the Windy City. When Albertsons added the entrees to two hundred additional stores in Chicago and they sold out there also. They partnered and now SFGL is national.

SMOKEY'S SOUL Continues on page 7

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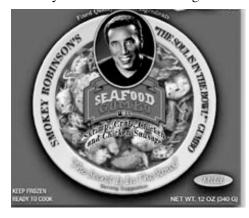


SMOKEY'S 'SOUL'

Continued from page 6

Shortly after that the company also partnered with Safeway and now the entrees are in 4,500 stores nationwide.

Glen A Fulton the Director of Supplier Diversity for Albertsons is ecstatic about the partnership. "It started off last year about this time and it has grown, he is now a national item and what we're doing today is rolling him out to the different divisions [around the nation], Fulton said. When asked if Smokey Robinson's name recognition



was an asset to sales Fulton replied,
"It helps to have the name Smokey
Robinson there but we treat all of our
suppliers much the same in regards to
making sure they have the opportunity
try out their product in our stores. If
they've got the capabilities. Their items
are good and it is something that is
going to drive our sales we definitely
want their items in our stores. This is a
win-win."

Leon Isaac Kennedy also travels with Smokey promoting the line. He too envisions a bright future for the company. He and Robinson are both determined to use their success with the food company to teach others the benefits of entrepreneurship. "We've been blessed and it's going great. One of the things Smokey and I really have in our heart is to teach people, young people in particular to become entrepreneurs. We're telling people that even though we're from show business everybody cannot be a rap star and everyone cannot be an NFL, NBA or movie star. But they do have ideas and they need coaching and mentoring to become entrepreneurs."

It's Never Too Late to Take Care of your Health

It's never too late. News Dimensions encourages all women to participate in annual cervical cancer screening. The National Cervical Cancer Public Education Campaign urges women to help prevent cervical cancer by participating in a new program called "Take the Pledge."

s part of the "Take the Pledge" effort, women are encouraged to pledge to do their part to prevent cervical cancer by scheduling an annual gynecologic exam. Individual pledges are collected via the National Cervical Cancer Public Education Campaign's Web site (www.cervicalcancercampaign.org) or on pledge cards. Vigilance on the part of women about early detection through cervical cancer screening is crucial because cervical cancer, caught early, is nearly 100 percent curable.

The American Cancer Society (ACS) reports that between 60 and 80 percent of American women with newly diagnosed invasive cervical cancer have not had a Pap smear in the past five years and may have never had one. The unscreened population groups include older women, and the uninsured, ethnic minorities (especially Latino women, African Americans and Asian Americans), and poor women, particularly those in rural areas.

Cervical cancer is one of the most



common causes of cancer worldwide, and one of the most preventable and treatable. The American Cancer Society (ACS) estimates that about 10,000 cases of invasive cervical cancer will be diagnosed in the United States in 2005 and more than 4,000 women will die from the disease.

Recent advances approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have been developed to enhance the sensitivity of the Pap test, and many new guidelines have been developed about the frequency of cervical cancer screening. Be sure to consult your clinician about when you should have this all important test.

"With cervical cancer, women hold their destinies in their own hands. Women who take the pledge are therefore making a promise to protect their health by getting an annual exam and asking their doctor about cervical cancer screening pledge can also opt to receive an annual reminder to schedule an annual exam," said Karl C. Podratz, M.D., Ph.D., Chairman of the Gynecologic Cancer Foundation, the Campaign's lead partner.

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